

(Washington, DC)- Rep. Jason Altmire (PA-4) issued the following statement regarding today's vote on H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act:

"Voting for this supplemental bill ensures that our troops will receive their necessary funding. A vote against this bill is a vote against supplying our troops with the funding and resources they need while they are in the field of battle and serving in harm's way. This bill provides more funds for equipment and training than was requested by the President and fully funds the increase in military personnel sought by the Administration.

The House supplemental bill will also increase funding for military and veterans' health care by \$3.4 billion above the President's request. I believe no one should stand ahead of our servicemen and women and our veterans when federal funding is debated. The VA health care system has been chronically under-funded in recent years, and this bill takes a giant step in ensuring that every military veteran has access to the high quality health care that they have been promised. This increased funding will help reduce the backlog at VA health care facilities nationwide and will prevent situations like those at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The House supplemental funding bill, for the first time, outlines a clear and decisive strategy for success in Iraq. By laying out key security, political and economic benchmarks, we make clear to the Iraqis that the United States will assist in the training functions necessary to enable the Iraqi government to protect Iraq, but that the long-term responsibility of these functions belongs to the Iraqi government."